(c) whether Government will be able to set up these airports before the Commonwealth Games 2010; and

(d) if not, how Government will be able to tackle the heavy traffic of chartered and private planes over the skies of major cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government wishes to expand the aviation infrastructure hence it has approved setting up of second airport at Navi Mumbai near Mumbai through Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. There are also proposals for setting up of a second airport near Delhi and Chennai.

(c) No, Sir. These airports are not planned to cater to commonwealth Games.

(d) to meet the growing air passenger traffic, capacities of the existing airports are being enhanced and new Greenfield Airports are being encouraged to be set up.

Workers engaged at Airports

†1481. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether contract workers, daily wagers, casual labours working on airports have submitted any memorandum to Government regarding their wages and other facilities;

(b) whether Government is considering to regularize them;

(c) whether Ministry has any proposal to provide at least consolidated pay to these poor workers; and

(d) if so, by when it would be provided and amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The contract workers are engaged by the contractors. They are being paid wages and other facilities, as per the statutory provisions, by such contractors. As such, Airports authority of India (AAI)/Government are not required statutorily to regularise them. No daily wagers or casual labours are engaged by the AAI.

(c) and (d) do not arise.

Use of redundant Airports

1482. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has any plans to encourage the establishment of pilot training academies in Hyderabad;

(b whether it is a fact that redundant Airports could be used for such development of aviation infrastructure; and

(c) the details of steps the AAI would take to preserve, develop and nurture aviation infrastructure in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to establish an Integrated Aviation Training Academy at existing International Airport at Begumpet, Hyderabad, once the commercial aircraft operations are shifted to new greenfield airport at Shamshabad.

(c) To preserve, develop and nurture aviation infrastructure at all airports in the country, Airports Authority of India (AAI) is taking necessary steps like preparation of long term master plans for phase-wise development of infrastructure, entering into Memorandum of Understanding with concerned State Government with required concessions for development of some of the unviable airports, calling for expression of interest for establishment of Flying Clubs and MRO facilities at less busy or non-operational airports etc.

Extension of Jammu Airport

1483. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to extend the Jammu Airport;

(b) if so, the details of land which has been acquired recently; and

(c) the fund sanctioned in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 3.4 acres of land has recently been acquired at a cost of Rs. 4.98 crore.

Limit of number of foreign pilots

1484. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of Ministry to appoint foreign pilots to meet the increase in demand of pilots by various airlines operators in the Aviation industry:

(b) if so, the number of pilots appointed airline-wise;

(c) whether there is any plan of Government to meet the growing demand of pilot day-by-day by employing Indian pilots;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Ministry will form any policy to prohibit the maximum number of foreign pilots being appointed by these Airlines in future to provide employment to trained Indian Pilots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Appointment of foreign pilots is done by the concerned airlines based on their need. So far, Directorate General of Civil Aviation has cleared 804 foreign pilots. The airline-wise break up is Indigo-66, Paramount Airways-21, Blue Dart-10, Spice Jet-42, Air DECCAN-149, Alliance Air-20, Go Air-13, Kingfisher Airlines-95, Jet Airways-271 and Air India-117.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken various steps to reduce the gap between demand and supply of skilled Indian pilots. These include conditionally increasing the age-limit to 65 years for pilots for exercising the privileges of their licences for commercial transport operations under prescribed conditions, upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity from 40 to 100 pilots per years, setting up of a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra for training 100 cadets and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation/Aero Club of India.